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MASSWILDLIFE HATCHERY IN SANDWICH TO SUPPLY 90,000
TROUT TO MASSACHUSETTS LAKES AND RIVERS

State officials joined outdoor advocates and enthusiasts today to celebrate efforts to allow the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Sandwich Fish Hatchery to remain open. Also present were students from an aquaculture class at the Cape Cod Upper Regional Vocation School, which has a cooperative agreement to with the hatchery.

"This hatchery is a valuable environmental, educational, recreational and economic resource," said Secretary of Environmental Affairs Ellen Roy Herzfelder. "I am proud that we are able to continue to provide this opportunity for the residents and visitors of the Commonwealth."

In October 2003, Governor Mitt Romney signed into law a bill to restore the Inland Fish and Game Fund, a sportsmen- and women-funded account that funds the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife's wildlife restoration and management efforts. Bay State sporting and environmental groups were instrumental in advocating for this bill and for the continued operation of the Sandwich Hatchery.

"The legislation signed by Governor Romney and the funding authorized by the Legislature has put the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife on solid fiscal ground," said David Peters, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game. "Like the Commonwealth's fishing enthusiasts, I am happy to see our stocking program back on track."

After the announcement, hatchery workers gave the students and others a tour of the facility, which produces more than 90,000 trout annually for stocking into Massachusetts' lakes and rivers. The hatchery is a popular educational and tourist attraction in the region.

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The Sandwich fish hatchery supplies trout to more than 84 different water bodies in 38 cities and towns in southeastern Massachusetts alone. It produces some 50,000 pounds of trout annually, more than 90,000 trout for anglers to enjoy, and is the sole source producer of the Division's famed "Tiger Trout" (hybrid cross between a brook trout and brown trout) and a favorite trophy for Massachusetts' anglers.

The Massachusetts Conservation Alliance is a group of sporting and conservation organizations that together promote conservation and wildlife interests throughout the Bay State. Representatives from member organizations attending today's event included: Environmental Strategies, Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council, Trout Unlimited/Cape Cod Chapter, Gun Owner's Action League, Barnstable County League of Sportsmen's Clubs, Plymouth County League of Sportsmen's Clubs, Bristol County League of Sportsmen's Clubs, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Massachusetts Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, and the Massachusetts Waterfowlers Association.

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